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charged acts of inhumanity, saying in conclusion: "The high command in Germany willed the war, but the people in arms approved it, and resolutely waged war with the most ferociously cruel means, even the physicians with the army doing the most odious acts without a word of excuse, regret or pity." The *Deutsche, medizinische Wochenschrift* of April 10, 1919, as quoted in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association, related that the matter was brought up in the Berlin Medical Society, and Calmette's protest and the resolutions voted thereon by the Académie de médecine at Paris were discussed. Dr. Fuld offered a resolution that the society should go on record as expressing its regret at such happenings as were specified in the Calmette protest, but his suggestion was opposed by Orth and others, the speakers saying that there was no proof of the truth of the statements made by Calmette, and no voting should be done on a matter of which only one side had been presented. Finally a committee was appointed to report after obtaining an official copy of the resolutions that had been adopted by the Académie. The *Wochenschrift* of November 6, 1919, relates that this committee recently presented its report. It was in the form of a resolution which was adopted without a dissenting voice. The members of the committee were Fuld, Kraus, Krause, Morgenroth and Schwalbe, the latter the editor of the *Wochenschrift*. The resolution in translation reads:

The Berlin Medical Society is not in a position to pass judgment on the Manifesto of the Lille professors and the Académie de Médecine and on the published justification issued by the German authorities, entitled "Lille under German Rule and the Criticism of the Foe." But the society does not hesitate to declare openly that it condemns in the most unqualified manner all inhuman actions, wherever, whenever, and by whomsoever they may be committed. This attitude corresponds to the spirit of medicine always held high by the German medical profession, that really international spirit to which we are loyal and to which we assume all other physicians are loyal wherever they may be and to whatever nation they may belong.

#### CONFERENCE ON WASTE OF NATURAL GAS

A PUBLIC conference of governors, public utility commissioners, state geologists, home economic experts, natural gas companies, owners and officials, and appliance manufacturers has been called by Secretary of the Interior Lane to meet under the auspices of the Bureau of Mines at the Interior Department Building, Washington on January 15, to discuss the waste of natural gas in this country both by consumers and gas companies. As a result of the work of the experts of the bureau on this question, it is declared that in using natural gas the consumers through faulty appliances obtain an efficiency of about 13 per cent. from a gas cook stove, 25 per cent. from a house-heating furnace, and 10 per cent. from a hot-water heater, although in good practise these efficiencies can be trebled. Dr. Van H. Manning, director of the Bureau of Mines, writes in regard to the purposes of the conference:

Domestic consumers waste more than 80 per cent. of the gas received. The efficiency of most cooking and heating appliances could be trebled. By making natural gas worth saving the 2,400,000 domestic consumers in the United States could get the same cooking and heating service with one third the gas; that is, make one foot of gas do the work of three and greatly delay the day when the present supplies will be exhausted and consumers must go back to more expensive manufactured gas.

It is time for the public to take a new viewpoint on the waste of natural gas. It is time for the domestic consumer to realize that his duty is not done when he cries out against the flagrant wastes occurring in the gas fields and demands of his government that such wastes be abated; he must realize that he himself is likewise at fault and that it is time for him to set his own house in order. Furthermore, the domestic consumer must realize that these wastes do not concern him alone, and consequently he has not the right, merely because he pays for the gas, to employ it in any manner that pleases him, no matter how wasteful. Natural gas is a natural resource in which every inhabitant of this country has an equity. Those who waste the gas do so at the expense of those who would use it efficiently. Natural gas is not replaced by nature, and in comparison with the life

of the nation the duration of the supply will be brief.

The public has a right, therefore, to demand that this natural asset be used to the greatest advantage of all and that no one be allowed to waste it. Natural gas in each city is a community asset and every consumer has a right to demand that wasteful use shall be prohibited in the interest of the public service. This is particularly important during cold spells in the winter when the supply is insufficient and actual suffering may occur. Clearly, it is not right that any consumer suffer at such times because of the extravagance and waste of other consumers, even though they are willing to pay for the gas wasted. Nor can the citizens justify demands for better service from the public utilities without making provision to correct abuses in their own homes. It must be recognized that the public has been and is to-day just as much a party to the crime of wasting this natural resource as are the companies that produce and market it.

#### SCIENTIFIC LECTURES

UNDER the auspices of the division of geology of Harvard University, Dr. James Mackintosh Bell, former government geologist of New Zealand, will give a series of nine lectures on topics in economic geology. These lectures are given in the Geological Lecture Room, Geological Museum, at 4.30 o'clock, and will be open to the public. The dates and titles are as follows:

January 5. "The Waihi goldfield, New Zealand."

January 7. "The Mount Morgan copper mine, Queensland."

January 9. "The Mount Bischoff tin mine, Tasmania."

January 12. "The Mount Lyell copper mine, Tasmania."

January 14. "The Spassky copper mines, Siberia."

January 16. "The Atbasar copper mines, Siberia."

January 19. "The Sudbury nickel-copper area, Ontario."

January 20. "The Cobalt Silver Camp, Ontario."

January 21. "The Porcupine goldfields, Ontario."

THE following are among the lectures to be given at the Royal Institution: Professor W.

H. Bragg, six lectures adapted to a juvenile auditory on The World of Sound; Sir John Cadman, two lectures on (1) Modern Development of the Miner's Safety Lamp and (2) Petroleum and the War; Professor G. Elliot Smith, three lectures on The Evolution of Man and the Early History of Civilization; Professor Ernest Wilson, two lectures on Magnetic Susceptibility; Professor Arthur Keith, four lectures on British Ethnology: The Invaders of England; Professor A. E. Conrady, two lectures on Recent Progress in Photography; Professor A. H. Smith, two lectures on Illustrations of Ancient Greek and Roman Life in the British Museum; Lieutenant-Colonel E. Gold, two lectures on The Upper Air; Sir F. W. Dyson, Astronomer Royal, three lectures on The Astronomical Evidence bearing on Einstein's Theory of Gravitation; and Sir J. J. Thomson, six lectures on Positive Rays. The Friday evening discourses will begin on Friday, January 16, 1920, at 9 o'clock, when Sir James Dewar will deliver a discourse on Low-temperature Studies. Succeeding discourses will probably be given by Sir C. A. Parsons, Mr. S. G. Brown, Professor W. M. Bayliss, Dr. E. J. Russell, Mr. W. B. Hardy, the Hon. J. W. Fortescue, Professor J. A. Fleming, Mr. E. McCurdy, Sir J. J. Thomson, and others.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At a meeting of the Société de Pathologie exotique at the Institut Pasteur of Paris, held on December 10, Dr Simon Flexner of The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, in New York, was elected an associate member. Dr. Flexner was also elected to associate membership in the Société Royale des Sciences Médicales et Naturelles of Brussels, at a meeting held on December 1, and to the Société Belge de Biologie of Brussels, at its meeting of December 6. On December 22, Dr. Flexner was made a corresponding member of the Bataafsche Genootschap der Proefondervindelijke Wijsbegeerte of Rotterdam, Holland.

OFFICIAL notice has been issued by the French Academy of Sciences of the award of